

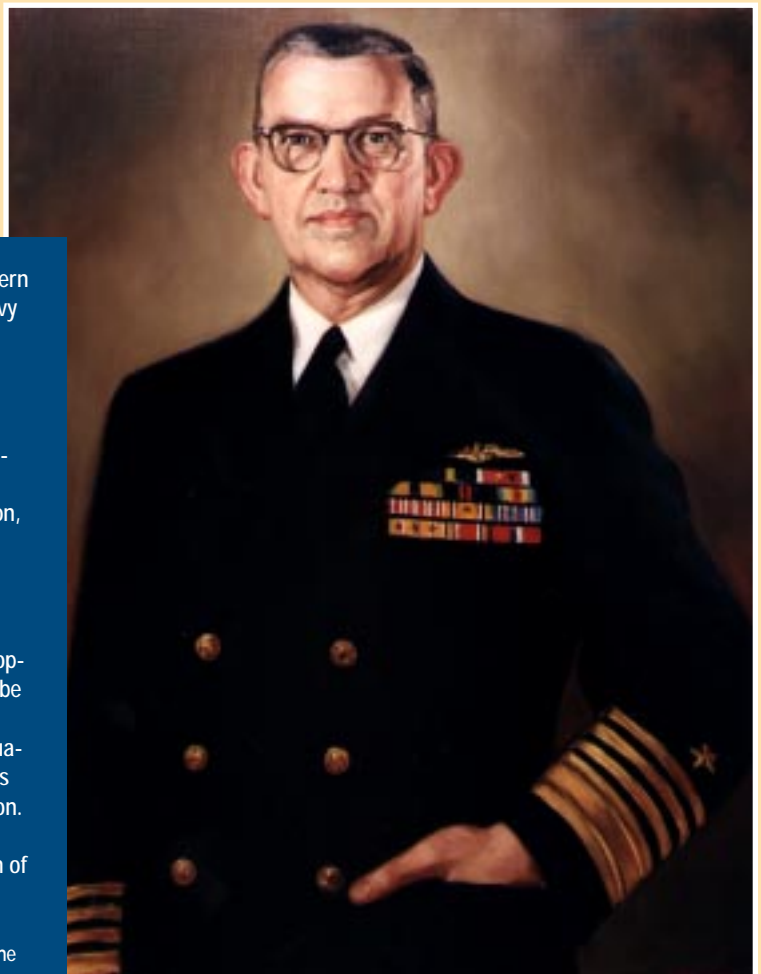
Admiral Louis Emil Denfeld

(1891–1972)

Chief of Naval Operations

VITA

Born in Westborough, Massachusetts; graduated from Naval Academy (1912); commanded *USS McCall* (1919); served aboard S-24 submarine (1923–24); commanded Destroyer Division 11 (1935–37); aide to Chief of Naval Operations (1939); commanded Destroyer Division 18, then Destroyer Squadron 1 (1939–41); served on staff of commander, Atlantic Fleet Support Force (1941); assistant chief, Bureau of Navigation (1942); led Battleship Division 9 (1945); appointed chief, Bureau of Personnel (1945); commanded Pacific Fleet and all U.S. forces in the area (1947); appointed Chief of Naval Operations (1947); detached from duty by the Secretary of the Navy (1949) and retired (1950); died in Westborough, Massachusetts.



Naval Historical Center

The entire Navy . . . is gravely concerned whether it will have modern weapons, in quality and quantity, to do the job expected of the Navy at the outbreak of a future war. We have real misgivings over the reductions that are taking place in the Navy today. . . . It is not so much the reduction in congressional appropriations that worry us. . . . Our concern is with the arbitrary reductions that impair, or even eliminate, essential naval functions. It is not so much a question of too little appropriated money, but how we are allowed to invest that money. . . . Limitations are imposed without consultation, and without understanding of the Navy's responsibility in defense of our maritime nation.

I am an advocate of airpower. . . . I am also a proponent of strategic air warfare.

There has been no objection raised by the Navy to the development of the B-36 to the point where its value as a weapon might be thoroughly evaluated. . . . However, it is illogical, damaging, and dangerous to proceed directly to mass procurement without evaluation to the extent that the Army and Navy may be starved for funds and our strategic concept of war frozen about an uncertain weapon.

The procedure leading up to the cancellation of the carrier *United States* is another exemplification of the improper operation of unification.

—Statement by Louis E. Denfeld before the House Armed Services Committee (October 1949)

Portrait by Alicia Rhett.